

ABSTRACT

WA-V-015

Nesbitt-Warner House

Clear Spring Vicinity

private

(Plumb Grove)  
Early 19th Century

The Nesbitt-Warner House, located near Clear Spring is a two story, five bay brick structure with a two story, two bay ell. The house which appears to date from the second quarter of the 19th century is significant for its fine exterior and interior vernacular Greek Revival details. The house is also important for its association with the Nesbitt family, prominent settlers in Washington County.

Easement

2203925404  
WA-V-015  
District 4  
Map 34  
Parcel 33

## MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST WORKSHEET

NOMINATION FORM  
for the  
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES, NATIONAL PARKS SERVICE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

<b>1. NAME</b>				
COMMON: <b>Nesbitt-Warner House (Plumb Grove)</b>				
AND/OR HISTORIC:				
<b>2. LOCATION</b>				
STREET AND NUMBER: <b>Broadfording and Draper Roads</b>				
CITY OR TOWN: <b>Clear Spring</b>				
STATE: <b>Maryland</b>		COUNTY: <b>Washington</b>		
<b>3. CLASSIFICATION</b>				
CATEGORY (Check One)		OWNERSHIP		ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered		<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)				
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment				
<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum				
<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific				
<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <b>Storage</b>				
<input type="checkbox"/> Comments _____ _____ _____				
<b>4. OWNER OF PROPERTY</b>				
OWNER'S NAME: <b>Washington County Board of Education</b>				
STREET AND NUMBER: <b>Commonwealth Avenue</b>				
CITY OR TOWN: <b>Hagerstown</b>		STATE: <b>Maryland</b>		<b>21740</b>
<b>5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION</b>				
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: <b>Washington County Court House</b>				
STREET AND NUMBER: <b>West Washington Street</b>				
CITY OR TOWN: <b>Hagerstown</b>		STATE: <b>Maryland</b>		<b>21740</b>
Title Reference of Current Deed (Book & Pg. #): <b>456/785</b>				
<b>6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS</b>				
TITLE OF SURVEY: <b>Maryland Historical Trust Survey #.4025</b>				
DATE OF SURVEY: <b>Summer 1967</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Federal <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local				
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: <b>Maryland Historical Trust</b>				
STREET AND NUMBER: <b>21 State Circle</b>				
CITY OR TOWN: <b>Annapolis</b>		STATE: <b>Maryland</b>		<b>21401</b>

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7. DESCRIPTION			
CONDITION	(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated <input type="checkbox"/> Ruins <input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)		(Check One)
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered < 50%	<input type="checkbox"/> Uncluttered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site
DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE			
<p>The Nesbitt-Warner house is located west of Clear Spring just west of the junction of Draper and Broadfording Roads. It is situated on an area of level ground and faces southeast.</p> <p>The dwelling is a two story, five bay brick structure set on low fieldstone foundations. A two story, two bay ell, lower in height, extends to the rear. A double porch is attached to the northeast elevation of the ell. Bricks are laid in Flemish bond at the front elevation while common bonding with generally four courses of stretchers between header rows is in evidence at the side and rear elevations. Flat arches one brick in height are located over all openings except those at the first story of the front elevation which are one and a half bricks in height.</p> <p>Openings are spaced symmetrically in the front elevation. Windows in the southwest gable wall of the main section are grouped with two openings per story situated toward the west while a third opening per story is set toward the south corner of the house. All windows have had their sashes removed and have been boarded shut. Frames are quite narrow with rounded edges. Hinge pins set in the frames show that shutters were present at one time.</p> <p>The main entrance is located in the center bay of the front elevation. The opening is elaborate with a broad rectangular transom and side lights. A two part eight panel door is flanked by attached doric columns inside paneled jambs. The entrance is sheltered by a one bay entrance porch with a low hipped roof. It is supported by pairs of plain doric-type columns connected by a balustrade. Other entrances are located in the northeast elevation.</p> <p>The roof is covered with sheet metal and terminates with barge boards set directly against the end walls. Pairs of brick chimneys linked by parapets at the level of the roof ridge are located inside each gable end. Several courses of decorative brick corbeling top each flue. A single chimney is located inside the northwest gable end of the ell. It is trimmed with decorative corbeling matching that used at the other chimneys.</p> <p>The interior of the house is divided by a central entrance and stair hall. The stair spirals to the attic. Its curved hand rail is supported by tapered round balusters. Decorative scroll brackets are attached to the ends of the risers. The base board displays painted marble graining. Several unusual fireplace mantels are located inside the house. Among them is a mantel with fluted doric colonnettes supporting a panel with a band of Greek fretwork. Others have plain doric colonnettes and panels with projecting ovals having rounded surfaces. Symmetrically molded trim with broad rounded surfaces finishes several door frames.</p> <p>The house is in deteriorated condition and is located on a tract containing 184 acres. Northwest of the house is a bank barn dating from the early or mid 20th century. Other outbuildings include wooden sheds related to the practice of agriculture.</p>			

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

## 8. SIGNIFICANCE

## PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- ☐ Pre-Columbian      ☐ 16th Century      ☐ 18th Century      ☐ 20th Century  
☐ 15th Century      ☐ 17th Century      ☒ 19th Century

## SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

## AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |                                       |  |   |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal              | <input type="checkbox"/> Education    | <input type="checkbox"/> Political           | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric             | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering  | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic                | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry     | <input type="checkbox"/> Science             | <u>Local History</u>                                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture             | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention    | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture           | _____   |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape    | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater             | _____   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce                | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature   | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation      | _____   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> Military     |  |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation            | <input type="checkbox"/> Music        |  |   |

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The area of significance of the Nesbitt-Warner house is its architecture. It is also important for its association with a prominent early Washington County family.

Architecturally the house is significant for its fine exterior and interior details. It appears to date from the second quarter of the 19th century and displays several characteristics associated with the Greek Revival style such as the elaborate trabeated entrance and the interior woodwork and chimney treatment. The exterior double chimney stacks are associated with this period of 19th century construction in Washington County. Few houses in Washington County built during the period from 1820-1860 display Greek Revival features to the extent that the Nesbitt-Warner house does. The house is however a vernacular adaptation of this style; its basic form reflects traditional Southern Pennsylvania and Western Maryland farm house patterns.

The property on which this house stands has been owned by two families since the 18th century. The house is located on a land grant, "Nesbitt's Inheritance" which contained 708 acres granted to Nathaniel Nesbitt on April 3, 1794. Nesbitt's Inheritance was a resurvey on two earlier grants, "Resurvey on Hazzard and Locust Thicket" granted to Nathaniel Nesbitt on June 11, 1774 and containing 1404 1/2 acres. Earlier in 1763 Nathaniel Nesbitt had received by grant 443 acres of "Resurvey on Locust Thicket." The Locust Thicket tract was resurveyed for Nathan Hammond in 1760 and contained 1218 acres. Resurvey on Hazzard, 790 acres, was granted to Hugh Gilliland in 1752. Nesbitt held other lands in the vicinity as early as the 1750's.

Upon his death in 1807 Nathaniel Nesbitt's land was divided among his five sons as outlined in his will (B/142). The portion of "Nesbitt's Inheritance" on which this house stands was inherited by Jonathan Nesbitt who held it until 1855. This Jonathan Nesbitt, Sr. is the presumed builder of the house. His son, Jonathan, Jr. who purchased the property (I.N.10/455) was an influential resident of the Clear Spring area and was a member of the Maryland Legislature. The farm remained in the Nesbitt family until 1893 when it was sold by Allen A. Nesbitt and Emma C. Nesbitt to Rosa E. Warner for \$10,000. (99/517). It was owned by the Warner family until 1967 when it was purchased by the Washington County Board of Education. Nearby on Broadfording Road are two other brick houses which are located on "Nesbitt's Inheritance" and are believed to have been built by

other sons of Nathaniel Nesbitt.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

## 9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Frantz, Flora and Nora Snyder, notes compiled regarding the Nesbitt family, Clear Spring, Md.

Tracey, Arthur G., notes compiled on Washington County Land Grants, Westminster, Md. 1954.

Washington County Land Records.

Washington County Probate Records.

## 10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **184 acres.**

Acreage Justification:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

## 11. FORM PREPARED BY

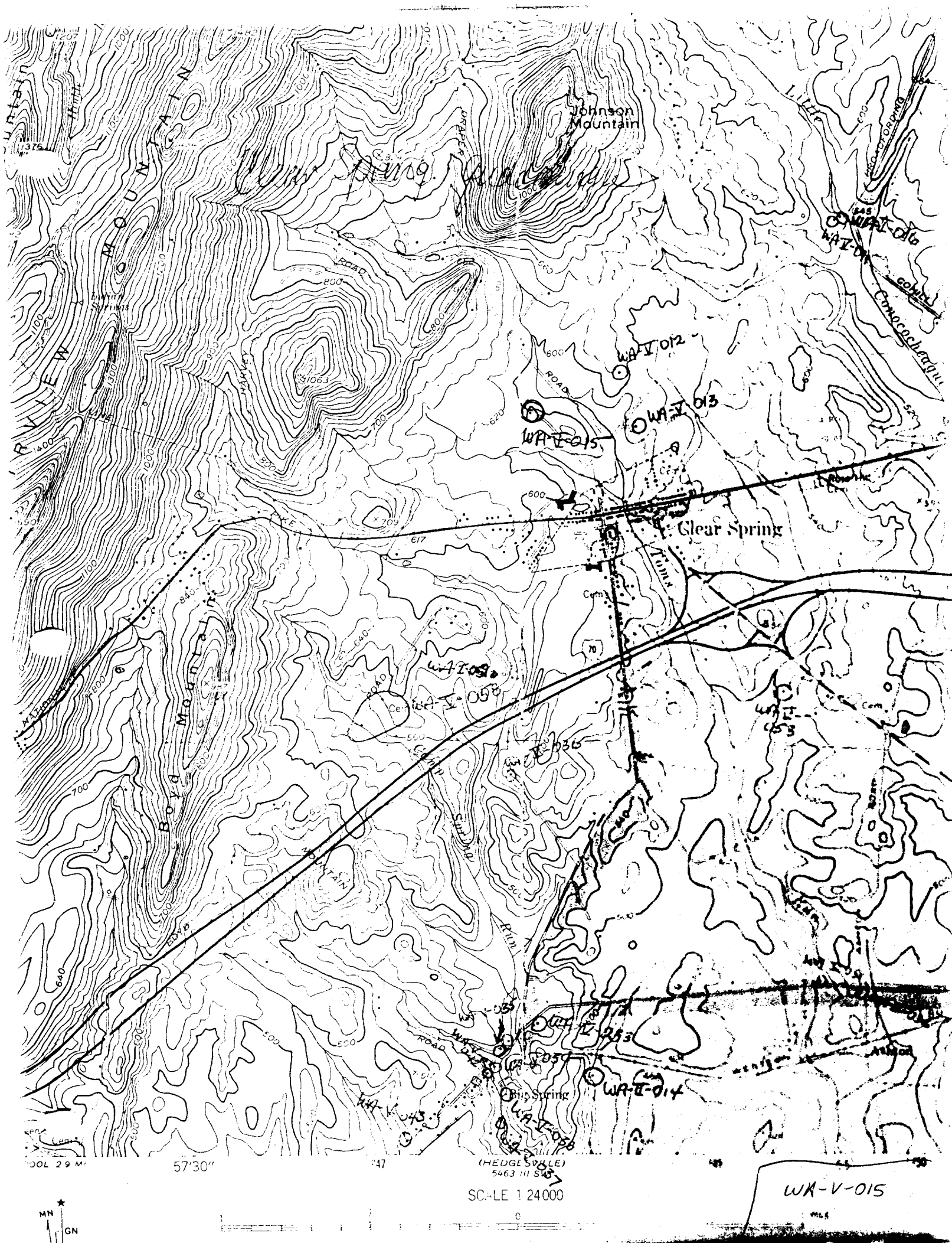
NAME AND TITLE: <b>Paula Stoner Dickey, Consultant</b>	
ORGANIZATION <b>Washington County Historical Sites Survey</b>	DATE <b>February 1976</b>
STREET AND NUMBER: <b>Court House Annex</b>	
CITY OR TOWN: <b>Hagerstown</b>	STATE <b>Maryland</b>

## 12. State Liaison Officer Review: (Office Use Only)

Significance of this property is:

National ☐ State ☐ Local ☐

Signature \_\_\_\_\_





WA-II 015

ENTRANCE DETAIL

May, 1973



WA-V-015

S.

May 1973